

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 932

Topic: Government payments of accounts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

- a) From Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date, what has been the average time period for the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others?
- b) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?
- c) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?
- d) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?
- e) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 90 and 120 days?
- f) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
- g) For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency since Additional Estimates in February, 2014?
- h) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

Department of Social Services:

For the period 27 February to 5 June 2014:

- a) The average time was 23 days
- b) 3540 (96%)
- (c – f) more than 30 days (4%)
- g) Yes, interest is paid to small businesses when the invoice is paid late as per Finance Circular 2012/02. Since February 2014 \$34.65 interest has been paid.
- h) Interest is calculated by using the General Interest Charge (GIC) rates as per guidance provided by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Aged Care Commissioner

The payment of account statistics for the Aged Care Commissioner, are included in the above answer for the Department of Social Services.

Aged Care Pricing Commissioner

The payment of account statistics for the Aged Care Pricing Commissioner, are included in the above answer for the Department of Social Services.

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Australian Aged Care Quality Agency

- a) 14 days
- b) 100%
- (c – f) Nil
- g) No interest paid
- h) No interest paid

Australian Institute of Family Studies

Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date:

- a) The average time was 16.1 days
- b) 143 (77.6%)
- (c – f) (22.4%)
- g) Interest has not been paid
- h) Not Applicable

National Disability Insurance Agency

- a) The average time was 27.5 days
- b) 340 (98%)
- c) 7 (2%)
- d) Nil
- e) Nil
- f) Nil
- g) Interest payments are not applicable to CAC bodies.
- h) Not applicable.

Social Security Appeals Tribunal

Access to relevant IT system was unavailable due to the EOFY close at the time this response was prepared. It is therefore not possible to answer parts a) to g) of this question for the period 27 February 2014 to date. Those parts have been answered below using data from February 2014, and it is noted that current data would most likely be similar.

- a) 38.07 days
- b) 10 (66.6%)
- (c – f) (33.4%)
- f) No interest has been paid on overdue accounts as the provision of goods and/or services had not been received, invoices had not been received and vendor had not updated the SSAT on changes to their contact details.
- g) N/A